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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MEL-
LEGÅRD & NALJ AB** [SE/SE]; Kåsatorpsvägen 7, S-541
34 Skövde (SE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MELLEGRÅRD, Per**
[SE/SE]; Karl Magnussons väg 7, S-541 47 Skövde (SE).
NALJ, Stefan [SE/SE]; Stens väg 3, S-430 31 Åsa (SE).

(74) Agent: **AWAPATENT AB**; Box 11394, S-404 28 Göte-
borg (SE).

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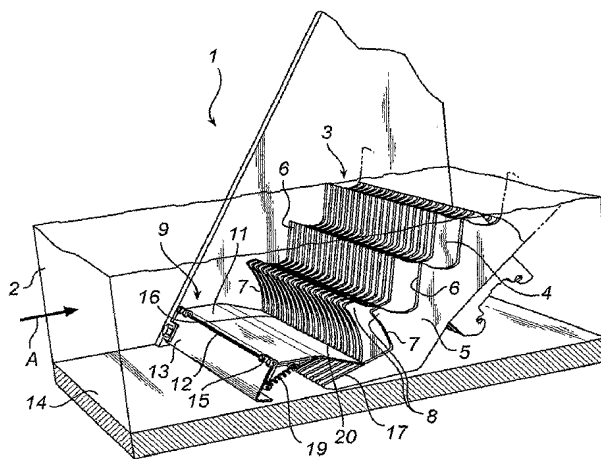
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(54) Title: **BOTTOM SEAL**



(57) **Abstract:** A bottom seal (9) at the lower end of a step screen (1) adapted to convey solid particles and other objects positioned in flowing water (2). The step screen has a grating (3) comprising alternately fixed and movable lamellar rods (4, 5) with intermediate gaps (6) to allow the water to pass through the grating. The bottom seal extends substantially across the entire width of the grating to seal the ducts (10) that arise between the fixed lamellar rods at their lowermost step (8) as the movable lamellar rods move upwards between the fixed lamellar rods. The bottom seal comprises an elongate bottom cover (11), which at its longitudinal edge (12) upstream is by means of hinges (15) pivotally connected to the step screen via a bottom step (13) upstream of the bottom cover and at its longitudinal edge (16) downstream on the one hand is guided on guides (17) on the lowermost steps (8) of the movable lamellar rods in order to follow the motion thereof and, on the other hand, in this motion is pivotable up and down close to and past the edges (7) upstream on the lowermost steps (8) of the fixed lamellar rods (4).

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